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disappearance seems to have marked the beginning of a new period of activity in the volcano.

It is well known that Prof. Heilprin differs from some other students of the volcano in his views as to the origin of the tower, which, he believes, "was merely the ancient core of the volcano that had been forced from the position of rest in which solidification had left it." The French observers, on the other hand, believe that the tower was an extrusion of solidified new lava—a view to which Prof. Heilprin at first inclined, and this volume gives his reasons for revising his opinion. He makes the point clear that there are still many unsettled questions relating to the mechanism of the eruptions and the accompanying phenomena.

An den Grenzen von China und Tibet. Von H. Hackmann. Halle a S., 1904. Gebauer-Schwetschke, Druckerei und Verlag (m. b. H.).

This pretty little book does not claim to be anything more than the diary of a simple traveller who wishes to share the impressions and experiences of an interest ing trip with his fellow-men. But the author, although not a geographer or other scientist, but a missionary returning home from the field of his labours through a country little visited by travellers in order to study some special forms of Buddhism, has made a real contribution to our knowledge of southwestern China. While the regular road from China to Burma goes from Suchou on the Yang-tse south-west toward Yunnan-fu, he traversed a practically unknown region west of that route in the border mountains of China, Tibet, and Burma. In that interesting country the contact of several races on a territory almost secluded from the outside world has produced very peculiar ethnological conditions, and no less complicated geologic problems result from the contact of the Indo-Chinese and Central Asiatic mountain ranges and await the visit of the explorer who shall be able to devote his whole time to their study. For one to whom the geographical part of the trip was only a side issue, the author deserves the gratitude of the geographers for collecting so much that is valuable for their work.

It is especially pleasant to see that the author does not, like many amateur geographers, commit the mistake of considering his own personal experiences and supposed acts of heroism the nucleus of the narrative; it is for the sake of the subject that he speaks to us, and only because he knows that there is at present nobody in possession of newer and better information than he. With the same modesty he excludes from his narrative all remarks on parts of the country visited recently by regular explorers, so that it is most likely to be read with the same interest by the geographer hunting for new information as by the layman who enjoys the charm of a well-written story of travel and adventure.

The route pursued followed the valleys of the Min-kiang and the Ya-ho Rivers, tributaries of the Yang-tse, up to the city of Ya-chou, with a side trip to the holy mountain of Omi, description of which must be reckoned among the gems of geographic literature; from there to the west across the Elephant-Pass to Ta-tshien on the Tung-ho, another tributary of the Yang-tse; down that river south to Tzta-ti and through the Lolo country down the Kien-chang River, then south-west through the country of the Mosso to Tali across the mountains of farthest China, and from there west-southwest via Yung-shang and Teng-yüe to Bhamo, where the party struck the regular road again.

The most valuable chapters of the narrative seem to be the reports on those interesting tribes of the Lolo and Mosso, about whom so little is known and with whom, after the natural suspicion against the white man was overcome by means of medical assistance and some presents, the author succeeded in establishing such

friendly relations that the records of his stay among them give a most vivid picture of the character, habits, and primitive civilization of these interesting tribes. The linguistic and religious training of the author makes the ethnological chapters the most scientific parts of the book, while in the descriptions of the landscape the lover of nature and the advocate of the Gospel often betray themselves more than is generally compatible with the character of a scientific report. But then he does not intend to write such a book, and for being less scientific those chapters are no less enjoyable reading. The impromptu experiences and accidents of the trip are recorded with enough good humour to add spice to the narrative, and the perfectly artistic drawings will delight the heart of every lover of the beautiful. The geographer, however, must complain that not a single name is given with any of the illustrations, large or small-an omission the more deplorable because we are told that even the purely decorative designs are authentic copies of originals from the author's collections. In another direction the needs of the scientific reader have been very well considered by the addition of two fairly good maps. As a whole, the book seems well adapted to serve the purpose for which it was written-viz., to create a desire for more information about those interesting out-of-the-way regions and their inhabitants.

M. K. G.

Japan und die Japaner. Von Carl Munzinger. 173 pp. D. Gundert, Stuttgart, 1904. (Price, M.1.50.)

A book of much literary merit, which claims attention for the ability with which it is written and for the philosophic method which it applies to Japanese problems. The writer, for example, does not merely state the fact that Japanese children are as mannerly and, perhaps, better behaved than those of the Occident, though they are almost never punished; he seeks to show that they are under influences from their earliest infancy tending to make them obedient and respectful, without recourse to the barbarity of corporal punishment. So, throughout his book, he seeks the inner meaning of the phenomena he describes; the geographical conditions and the historical events that have been most impressed upon them; the modern state evolved from Old Japan; the character and soul of the people, and what their religions, their schools, and culture mean to them. It is a book well worthy of an English rendering.

Die Japaner und ihre wirtschaftliche Entwickelung. Von Karl Rathgen. vii und 149 Ss. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1905. (Price, M. 1.25.)

This is one of the series "Aus Natur und Geisteswelt," a collection of small volumes, devoted to the exposition in simple language of many features of human development. Professor Rathgen had the advantage, in writing of the Japanese and their economic development, of having lived for years in their country, and this is his third book relating to the island empire. The volume is a simple and admirable summary of the history, character, and economic conditions of the Japanese, treating of the land and the people, their Government, money and banking, the national finances, and Japan's place in the world's trade. The book concludes with tables of Governmental and trade statistics for a series of years. The bibliography at the head of each chapter is a desirable feature.

Nutzbare Tiere Ostasiens. Pelz und Jagdtiere, Haustiere, Seetiere. Von Emil Brass. viii und 130 Ss. J. Neumann, Neudamm, 1904. (Price, M. 5.)

Mr. Brass was for twelve years engaged in the skin export trade of Eastern Asia. During this time he travelled extensively to enlarge his knowledge of the skin and